

I. ESG General Program Funding Information

City of Minneapolis Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

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| Program Description: | ESG is a federally funded program that was established by HUD to address specific housing stability service needs of persons who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness. For more ESG information, refer to the website http://www.hudhre.info/esg/index.cfm |
| Location: | Minneapolis is the ESG grantee. It is required to coordinate with the local Continuum of Care to address ESG needs. Program funding is limited to servicing the residents of Minneapolis. |
| Consolidated Plan: | HUD awards ESG formula grants to the City of Minneapolis upon submission and approval of its Consolidated Plan which describes the assistance to be provided. Heading Home Hennepin is the local Continuum of Care planning and advisory group that assists with identifying the needs for persons who are homeless and threatened with homelessness. The City's Consolidated Plan uses ESG to fund the rehabilitation/renovation of emergency shelters, street outreach services, and with this RFP rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention services. |
| Subrecipients: | Any non-profit organization that receives funds under this RFP that is contracted with to carry out eligible activities. |
| Amount of ESG Funds Available in RFP: | Approximately \$160,000. |
| Evaluation Process: | The City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County will collaborate in reviewing proposals in order to promote stable housing through a network of resources to prevent homelessness among those most at risk (and most able to benefit by relatively short-term interventions) and to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless. The goal is the coordinated delivery of prevention and re-housing assistance in Minneapolis and suburban Hennepin County. Funding will be awarded to applicants who responsively respond to this RFP based on the evaluation and recommendations of City staff with assistance of the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to |

End Homelessness . Funding recommendations will be presented to the Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee. The Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness and Minneapolis CPED staff will present funding determinations to the Minneapolis City Council for final approval. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Agencies with successful applications will be notified by e-mail of funding and be requested to enter into negotiations for an award amount. At that time, additional documents will be required for contract processing.

Match:

All applicants are required to provide a one-to-one match to requested ESG funds during the applicable program year. Match funds must be unrestricted and used for ESG eligible activities. Sources of match by sub recipients can be unrestricted federal, state, local or private sources; however, if any match is federal the laws governing a particular source of federal funds must not prohibit these funds from being used as match to ESG. Additionally, if requested ESG funds are used to satisfy match requirements of another federal program, then funding from that program may not be used as match for ESG (no reciprocal federal matching).

Government Regulations:

ESG Subrecipients must comply with regulation 24 CFR part 576 (Code of Federal Regulations), and the City of Minneapolis contracting requirements, including , but not limited to City of Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Chapters 139 and Chapter 423.

Eligible Uses:

Rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention services for eligible persons and families.

Eligible Activities:

Rental assistance, Housing and Relocation and Stabilization Services including financial assistance costs. While rental assistance under the ESG program can be either project-based or tenant-based, under this RFP the City is only seeking to fund tenant rental assistance. The City will not directly fund project-based rental assistance in this funding round, though an applicant may propose such assistance to be paid with agency match funds under their proposal.

Program Administration:

City of Minneapolis CPED is the ESG contracting administrator who manages and monitors ESG grant programs implemented through Subrecipients. This work will be coordinated with the City-County Office to End Homelessness.

Eligible Person/Beneficiary: **Homeless Prevention** services are to be offered to those who are at risk of homelessness according to the following definition:

(1) An individual or family who:

- (i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;
 - (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “Homeless” definition; and
 - (iii) Meets one of the following conditions:
 - a. Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
 - b. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
 - c. Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
 - d. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
 - e. Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
 - f. Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
 - g. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan;
- (2) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public

Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(3) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

For purposes of the above definition’s paragraph (g), someone who lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness is defined as follows. A renter household with income at/or below 30% of median income adjusted for family size and whose housing costs exceed 50% of their income and upon provider assessment is shown to be at imminent risk of losing existing housing.

Rapid Re-housing services are to be offered to those who are homeless according to the following definition:

(1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

(i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

(ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low income individuals); or

(iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

(2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

(i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

- (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
- (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
- (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention or criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(4) Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and

(iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faithbased or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

Funding Priorities:

Between rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention services preference is given to funding rapid re-housing services. Applicants may propose programming servicing both types of programming, however, the City seeks to prioritize rapid re-housing services for its residents.

Priority Populations:

All clients must have an annual income at or below thirty (30%) of HUD area median family income.

Rapid Re-housing will serve Minneapolis resident homeless families and single adults without children including unaccompanied youth who reside in a Hennepin County funded homeless shelter (previous permanent address within three months of entering shelter was in Minneapolis). Priority for this year's funding is for rapid rehousing for families in shelter and youth in shelter in that order.

Homelessness Prevention will serve Minneapolis resident renters who meet the At-Risk of Homelessness definition described above.

Performance Standards:

Applicants are requested to address the following outcomes as applicable in their proposal.

Rapid Re-Housing Outcomes

- Participants will be re-housed into stable housing within 30 days of eligibility determination for services.
- Participants receiving Rapid Re-housing will not become homeless during services or within six months of case closing.

Homelessness Prevention Outcomes

- Eligible renter households will not become homeless
- At Risk of Homelessness Families, Adults and Youth will retain stable, permanent housing
- Households receiving services will not become homeless during the six months following case closing

Ineligible Activities, include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Political activities, lobbying, political advocacy.
2. ESG funding may not be used for religious activities. Assistance may be provided by a service provider (project sponsor) that is a primarily religious organization if the primarily religious organization agrees to provide all eligible activities under this program in a manner that is free from religious influences and in accordance with the following principles:
 - a. It will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of religion and will not limit employment or give preference in employment to persons on the basis of religion.
 - b. It will not discriminate against any person applying for any of the eligible activities under this part on the basis of religion and will not limit such housing or other eligible activities or give preference to persons on the basis of religion.
 - c. It will provide no religious instruction or counseling, conduct no religious services or worship, engage in no religious proselytizing, and exert no other religious influence in the provision of eligible activities under this part.

Reporting:

Reporting requirements: All ESG-funded program agencies must participate in HUD's Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS). Any victim service providers funded under the city's ESG program will not need to participate in HMIS but may use an equivalent intake and assessment system as described in 24 CFR §576.400. Awardees will be required as a condition of contract performance to provide timely information to permit the City to report its ESG performance in the HUD Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, ESG Annual Performance Report and other such performance and evaluation reports as may be required of its receipt of ESG funds. Data provided is used to obtain essential information on grant activities, units of housing, and beneficiaries (including racial/ethnicity, income and other HUD-required demographic data).

Other Resources:

<http://headinghomeminnesota.org/hennepin>